



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 6, 2000

S. 2749

California Trail Interpretive Act

As passed by the Senate on October 5, 2000

SUMMARY

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$12 million over the 2002-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount. We also estimate that S. 2749 would increase both governmental receipts and direct spending by \$5 million over the 2003-2004 period. Because the act would affect receipts and direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

S. 2749 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish, near the city of Elko, Nevada, a center to interpret the historical significance of the California Trail in the westward migration of American settlers. The act would authorize the appropriation of \$12 million for the Secretary to plan and construct the facility and to enter into cooperative agreements to provide services for the proposed center. Under S. 2749, the Secretary could accept and use up to \$6 million in donations from state and local sources for that center.

S. 2749 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). State and local governments may enter into agreements with the federal government for a variety of services related to the interpretive center, but such responsibilities, along with donations toward the construction of the center, would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2749 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	0	2	10	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	1	5	5	1
CHANGES IN REVENUES AND DIRECT SPENDING					
Cash Donations					
Estimated Revenues	0	0	5	0	0
Spending of Donations					
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	5	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	2	3	0

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, we assume that S. 2749 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2001. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

S. 2749 would authorize the appropriation of \$12 million for the Secretary of the Interior to plan and construct the proposed interpretive center. Based on information from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), we estimate that selecting a site and designing the facility would cost about \$2 million during 2002 and 2003. Based on information from the agency, we expect that construction would begin during 2003 and that the agency would spend \$10 million over the 2003-2005 period to build the facility.

Revenues and Direct Spending

S. 2749 would authorize the Secretary to accept donations totaling up to \$6 million from the state of Nevada, Elko County, and the city of Elko. Based on information from BLM, we estimate that cash contributions from the state and city would total \$5 million in 2003. Such cash donations are recorded on the budget as governmental receipts (i.e., revenues). We also

estimate that the county would donate \$1 million worth of in-kind services to prepare the site and build access roads for the center. In-kind contributions are not reflected in the budget.

Under S. 2749, the Secretary could spend, without further appropriation, any cash donations for building the proposed center. Based on information from BLM, we estimate that this provision would increase direct spending by using \$2 million of those receipts in 2003 and \$3 million in 2004.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. The net changes in outlays and governmental receipts that are subject to pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in the following table.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars									
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Changes in outlays	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Changes in receipts	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2749 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State and local governments may enter into agreements with the federal government or a variety of services related to the interpretive center, but such responsibilities, along with donations toward the construction of the center, would be voluntary.

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